

[CHAPTER 605]

AN ACT

To extend the public-land laws of the United States to certain lands, consisting of islands, situated in the Red River in Oklahoma.

June 22, 1948
[H. R. 5071]
[Public Law 742]

Red River in Oklahoma.
Extension of public-land laws.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the public-land laws of the United States be, and the same are hereby, extended to the public lands in that part of the Red River between the medial line and the south bank of the river, in Oklahoma, between the ninety-eighth meridian and the east boundary of the territory established as Greer County by the Act of May 4, 1896 (29 Stat. 113): *Provided*, That such lands shall not be subject to disposition, settlement, or occupation until after the same have been classified and opened to entry, and other disposal by the Secretary of the Interior according to law.

Settlement claims and homestead entries.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and directed to recognize equitable claims to such lands based on settlement made prior to January 1, 1934, and all homestead entries of such lands, the allowance of which was erroneous because the lands were not subject to entry, and all suspended entries and applications to make final proof, are hereby validated if otherwise regular, as of the date of the regular application.

Repeal.
30 U. S. C. §§ 230-236.

SEC. 3. Except as to existing valid rights, the Act of March 4, 1923 (42 Stat. 1448) is hereby repealed.

Approved June 22, 1948.

[CHAPTER 607]

AN ACT

Requiring all mails consigned to an airport from a post office or branch, or from an airport to a post office or branch, within a radius of thirty-five miles of a city in which there has been established a Government-owned vehicle service to be delivered by Government-owned motor vehicles.

June 23, 1948
[H. R. 2588]
[Public Law 743]

Air mail.
Use of government-owned vehicles.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all mail consigned from an airport to a post office at which there is established a Government-owned motor-vehicle service operated by driver-mechanics in the motor-vehicle service of the Post Office Department or from such a post office to an airport, shall, if possible, be transported by such Government-owned motor vehicle: *Provided*, That such mails need not be so transported when the distance between the post office and the airport is in excess of thirty-five miles.

Helicopters.

SEC. 2. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as prohibiting the delivery of such mails by helicopter or similar aircraft.

Effective date.

SEC. 3. This Act shall become effective ninety days after enactment.

Approved June 23, 1948.

[CHAPTER 608]

AN ACT

To amend the Railroad Retirement Act of 1937, as amended, and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, as amended, and for other purposes.

June 23, 1948
[H. R. 6766]
[Public Law 744]

Railroad retirement and unemployment insurance.
50 Stat. 310; 60 Stat. 728.
45 U. S. C. § 228c (a), (e).

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That subsection (a) of section 3 of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1937, as amended, is amended by changing "2" to "2.40", "1½" to "1.80", and "1" to "1.20". Subsection (e) of section 3 of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1937, as amended, is amended by changing "\$3" to "\$3.60" and "\$50" to "\$60".

SEC. 2. Subsection (f) of section 5 of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1937, as amended, is amended by inserting "(1)" before "Upon", by striking out "this subsection" wherever it occurs and inserting in lieu thereof "this paragraph", and by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph:

"(2) Whenever it shall appear, with respect to the death of an employee on or after January 1, 1947, that no benefits, or no further benefits, other than benefits payable to a widow or parent upon attaining age sixty-five at a future date, will be payable under this section or, pursuant to subsection (k) of this section, under section 202 of the Social Security Act, as amended, there shall be paid to such person or persons as the deceased employee may have designated by a writing filed with the Board prior to his death, or if there be no designation, to the person or persons in the order provided in paragraph (1) of this subsection or, in the absence of such person or persons, to his estate, a lump sum in an amount equal to the sum of 4 per centum of his compensation paid after December 31, 1936, and prior to January 1, 1947, and 7 per centum of his compensation after December 31, 1946 (exclusive in both cases of compensation in excess of \$300 for any month), minus the sum of all benefits paid to him, or to others by reason of his death, under this Act and, pursuant to subsection (k) of this section, under section 202 of the Social Security Act, as amended: *Provided, however,* That if the employee is survived by a widow or parent who may upon attaining age sixty-five be entitled to further benefits under this section, or pursuant to subsection (k) of this section, under section 202 of the Social Security Act, as amended, such lump sum shall not be paid unless such widow or parent makes and files with the Board an irrevocable election, in such form as the Board may prescribe, to have such lump sum paid in lieu of all benefits to which such widow or parent might otherwise become entitled under this section or, pursuant to subsection (k) of this section, under section 202 of the Social Security Act, as amended. Such election shall be legally effective according to its terms. Nothing in this section shall operate to deprive a widow or parent making such election of any insurance benefits under section 202 of the Social Security Act, as amended, to which such widow or parent would have been entitled had this section not been enacted. The term 'benefits' as used in this paragraph includes all annuities payable under this Act, lump sums payable under paragraph (1) of this subsection, and insurance benefits and lump-sum payments under section 202 of the Social Security Act, as amended, pursuant to subsection (k) of this section."

SEC. 3. The provisions of section 1 hereof shall apply to all annuities under section 2 of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1937, as amended, accruing during calendar months following the month of enactment hereof other than joint and survivor annuities heretofore awarded and survivor annuities deriving from joint and survivor annuities heretofore awarded; and the provisions of section 2 hereof shall be effective as of January 1, 1947. All annuities under the Railroad Retirement Act of 1935 and all joint and survivor annuities heretofore awarded and survivor annuities deriving from joint and survivor annuities heretofore awarded, accruing during the calendar months following the month of enactment hereof, and all pensions due in months following the first calendar month after the enactment hereof, shall be increased by 20 per centum. All recertifications required by reason of the provisions of this Act shall be made by the Railroad Retirement Board without application therefor.

SEC. 4. Subsection (a) of section 8 of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, as amended, is amended by substituting the following for so much of said subsection as precedes the proviso:

60 Stat. 729.
45 U. S. C. § 228e (f).

Lump-sum payment upon death of employee.

45 U. S. C. § 228e (k).
49 Stat. 623.
42 U. S. C. § 402.

Filing of irrevocable election.

"Benefits."

Annuities.
50 Stat. 309.
45 U. S. C. § 228b.

Increase in annuity.
49 Stat. 967.
45 U. S. C. §§ 215-228 note.

Recertifications.

52 Stat. 1102.
45 U. S. C. § 358 (a).

Employer's contribution.

"(a) Every employer shall pay a contribution, with respect to having employees in his service, equal to the percentage determined as set forth below of so much of the compensation as is not in excess of \$300 for any calendar month paid by him to any employee for services rendered to him after June 30, 1939:"

52 Stat. 1102.
45 U. S. C. § 358 (a).

SEC. 5. (a) Subsection (a) of section 8 of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, as amended, is further amended by substituting a colon for the period at the end thereof and adding the following:

"1. With respect to compensation paid prior to January 1, 1948, the rate shall be 3 per centum;

"2. With respect to compensation paid after December 31, 1947, the rate shall be as follows:

"If the balance to the credit of the railroad unemployment insurance account as of the close of business on September 30 of any year, as determined by the Board, is:

The rate with respect to compensation paid during the next succeeding calendar year shall be:

\$450,000,000 or more.....	½ percent.
\$400,000,000 or more but less than \$450,000,000.....	1 percent.
\$350,000,000 or more but less than \$400,000,000.....	1½ percent.
\$300,000,000 or more but less than \$350,000,000.....	2 percent.
\$250,000,000 or more but less than \$300,000,000.....	2½ percent.
Less than \$250,000,000.....	3 percent.

Statement of balance of account.

"As soon as practicable following the enactment of this Act, the Board shall determine and proclaim the balance to the credit of the account as of the close of business on September 30, 1947, and on or before December 31 of 1948 and of each succeeding year, the Board shall determine and proclaim the balance to the credit of the account as of the close of business on September 30 of such year."

Adjustment.
52 Stat. 1102.
45 U. S. C. § 358 (a).

(b) Contributions paid under subsection (a) of section 8 of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, as amended, prior to the enactment of the foregoing amendment thereof which are in excess of those required by said subsection as so amended shall be subject to adjustment or refund in accordance with the provisions of subsections (d) and (e) of said section 8.

45 U. S. C. § 358 (d), (e).
52 Stat. 1103.
45 U. S. C. § 358 (f).

SEC. 6. Subsection (f) of section 8 of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

Division of deposits.

"(f) The contributions required by this Act shall be collected by the Board and shall be deposited by it with the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, such part thereof as equals 0.2 per centum of the total compensation on which such contributions are based to be deposited to the credit of the fund and the balance to be deposited to the credit of the account."

52 Stat. 1104.
45 U. S. C. § 360 (a).

Composition of railroad unemployment insurance account.
45 U. S. C. § 358.
Ante, p. 577; *supra*.

SEC. 7. Subsection (a) of section 10 of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, as amended, is amended by substituting the following for subdivision (i) of the second sentence of said subsection: "(i) such part of all contributions collected pursuant to section 8 of this Act as is in excess of 0.2 per centum of the total compensation on which such contributions are based, together with all interest collected pursuant to section 8 (g) of this Act;"

52 Stat. 1105.
45 U. S. C. § 361 (a).

Composition of railroad unemployment insurance administration fund.

SEC. 8. Subsection (a) of section 11 of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, as amended, is amended by substituting the following for subdivision (i) of the second sentence of said subsection: "(i) such part of all contributions collected pursuant to section 8 of this Act as equals 0.2 per centum of the total compensation on which such contributions are based;"

Approved June 23, 1948.